CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1369
1 November 1995

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE HON. DOMINGO L. SIAZON JR., SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES, CONCERNING THE THIRD NUCLEAR TEST CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE

I have the honour to communicate to you the attached statement of The Honourable Domingo L. Siazon, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, concerning the third nuclear test conducted by the Government of France.

I would be grateful if the above-mentioned statement could be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.95-64124 (E)

STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE THIRD NUCLEAR TEST EXPLOSION CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE
29 October 1995

In the blatant disregard of the clear and deep concern of the international community, France detonated last Friday another nuclear device in the vicinity of the Muroroa Atoll.

The Philippine Government strongly condemns this latest detonation of another nuclear device by France. It is extremely regrettable and a grave tragedy that France continues to ignore the overwhelming sentiment of both their own people and the international community.

This third detonation, done shortly after the gathering of world leaders at the United Nations in observance of its fiftieth year, makes a mockery of the efforts and sacrifices of the peoples of the World towards achieving peace, security, progress and development.

France continues to wilfully ignore the world-wide condemnation, more recently expressed during the recent Summit of the non-aligned movement and this year's United Nations General Assembly. In meetings of World leaders in Cartagena and New York, a common theme in the discussions was the grave threats posed by nuclear testing and weapons of mass destruction.

Few instances in history can rival the sheer arrogance, insensitivity and lack of concern of the French Government in continuing to pursue a policy as depraved as its nuclear testing programme, particularly at a time when the international community is faced with both profound challenges and unparalleled opportunities for just and last global peace.

I will summon the French Ambassador to convey the Philippine Government's protest, containing our strong condemnation and our call for the immediate cessation of further nuclear tests.

The Philippines will also intensify its diplomatic and political efforts and initiatives to further focus international concern and action against nuclear testing and weapons of mass destruction. In particular, as outgoing Chairman of the Group of 77, the Philippines will leave a clear legacy in terms of the full acceptance of the understanding that nuclear testing and nuclear weapons pose serious threats to health and the environment and seriously jeopardizes critical disarmament efforts by creating mistrust and compromising stability. The Philippines believes that these premises should be considered in all development efforts.

In addition, and on top of our diplomatic and political efforts, the Philippine Government has opened a legal front in our war against nuclear weapons. On 9 November 1995, the Philippine Government will appear before the International Court of Justice on the issue of the legality of nuclear weapons. This action will be a valuable addition to the Philippines' arsenal particularly when the court rules in our favour.

The Philippine Government as a responsible member of the international community and as current Chairman of the Group of 77, will spare no efforts at combating the scourge of weapons of mass destruction.

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